



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
January 10, 2023

CONTACT: Sarah Short
Sarah.short@serveohio.gov

ServeOhio Funds 20 Statewide Service Projects Taking Place on MLK Day

These grants support more than 1,000 volunteers engaging in local community service projects across fifteen Ohio cities

Columbus, OH – ServeOhio, the Governor-appointed commission on service and volunteerism, announces grant awards to support 20 local Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service projects on January 16. Much like Dr. King's legacy, these grants will help nonprofits across the state improve their communities through service and volunteer activities. The grants will fund service projects in fifteen Ohio cities led by more than 1,000 volunteers.

Each project commits to bringing volunteers together to create or improve community assets or infrastructure and supports local community engagement and impact. Additionally, every project includes an education component based on Dr. King's message of peace, unity, and service to create long-term, sustainable change.

ServeOhio awards these grants with support from the American Electric Power Foundation. Each grant totals between \$250 - \$1,000.

- **Africentric Personal Development Shop, Columbus** – 30 youth volunteers will create warm kits for youth experiencing homelessness.
- **City of Maple Heights, Maple Heights** – 25 volunteers will build and stock a Little Free Library in a local park.
- **Community Food Initiatives, Nelsonville** – 20 volunteers will build raised garden beds for a community garden.
- **Community Refugee and Immigration Services, Columbus** – 40 volunteers will move and organize donations for refugee families.
- **Franklinton Gardens, Columbus** – 10 volunteers will prepare seed propagation kits for those experiencing food insecurity.
- **Maumee Valley Habitat for Humanity, Toledo** – 45 teen volunteers will provide cleaning and repairs to a local senior center. Volunteers will also be adding a Little Free Library.
- **Medina United Church of Christ, Congregational, Medina** – 20 volunteers will supply and decorate a dining room at a local women's shelter.
- **Mt. Healthy City Schools, Cincinnati** – 100 students will prepare hygiene kits for those experiencing homelessness. An additional 500 youth will make cards.
- **National Pan-Hellenic Council of Columbus, Columbus** – 50 volunteers will read with youth. Youth will also receive a book and toiletry bag to take home.
- **Ohio Domestic Violence Network, Dayton** – 10 volunteers will build new organization systems for a clothing resource center for survivors of domestic violence.

- **Ohio Valley Youth Network, Steubenville** – 75 youth volunteers will install a wheelchair ramp and paint a local school.
- **Owens Community College, Perrysburg** – 150 students will make cards for mobile meal recipients, toys for animal shelters and wildlife centers, and goody bags for those experiencing homelessness.
- **Spring Hill Historic Home, Inc., Massillon** – 25 volunteers will build a shed at a local community garden.
- **StarkFresh, Canton** – 45 volunteers will clean and repaint throughout the food pantry.
- **University of Akron, Akron** – 40 volunteers will assemble meal kits for students who are food insecure.
- **Vinton County United Way, McArthur** – 15 volunteers will prepare emergency warming and cooling centers.
- **West Clermont Local School District, Cincinnati** – 44 students will prepare hygiene and winter kits for those experiencing homelessness and addiction.
- **Westwood Right Incorporation dba The Westwood Right Project CDC, Dayton** – 60 youth volunteers will participate in a community clean up and learn more about the importance of civic engagement.
- **Wittenberg University Hagen Center for Civic & Urban Engagement, Springfield** – 50 volunteers will gather supplies to assist community partners in addressing community needs.
- **Zanesville Rotary Foundation, Inc., Zanesville** – 25 volunteers will establish and dedicate a Peace Pole in a local park.

In addition to these service projects funded by ServeOhio, thousands of individuals across the state will volunteer in their communities on January 16 in remembrance of Dr. King and his life of service. Volunteers interested in serving in their community this MLK Day or at any time throughout the year can visit, ServeOhio's statewide volunteer engagement platform.

###

About ServeOhio

ServeOhio, Ohio's Governor-appointed commission on service and volunteerism, strengthens Ohio communities through AmeriCorps and volunteer engagement. Through programs and initiatives funded and supported by ServeOhio, thousands of Ohioans of all ages engage in and are recognized for their service. Interested participants may learn more about ServeOhio at serve.ohio.gov, or on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).